

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**March 10, 2003**

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LAST WEEK**LEGISLATION OF NOTE**

The following Bills of significance to NRCS and conservation have been introduced:

Bill	Sponsor	Purpose
H. R. 961	Kind, WI	To promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.
S. 212	Bingaman, MN	To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the High Plains States in conducting a hydrogeologic characterization, mapping, modeling and monitoring program for the High Plains Aquifer.

FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION/OMNIBUS BILL BRIEFING – On Friday, March 7th, Doug McKalip, NRCS Legislative Director, and Carole Jett, Associate Deputy Chief for Programs conducted a briefing regarding the status of Farm Bill program implementation and also a summary of provision of the Omnibus Appropriations bill for NRCS staff.

WEED SPECIES CONTROL ACT PASSES SENATE-On March 5, the Senate passed S. 144, Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003. The legislation establishes, within the Department of Interior, a cost sharing program for local entities to control nuisance and noxious weeds. The legislation includes a \$100 million authorization for funding for the program.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED - The Senate named Appropriations Members on March 4. As part of the Committee shifts, Sen. Thad Cochran, (MS) will assume Chairmanship of the new Homeland Security Subcommittee. Cochran has served as the chair and or ranking member for more a decade. He is replaced by Sen. Robert Bennett (UT). The Subcommittee roster is as follows:

Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies

Republican Members

Robert Bennett, UT, Chair
Thad Cochran, MS
Arlen Specter, PA
Christopher Bond, MO
Mitch McConnell, KY
Conrad Burns, MT
Larry Craig, ID
Sam Brownback, KS

Democratic Members

Herb Kohl, WI, Ranking Member
Tom Harkin, IA
Byron Dorgan, ND
Dianne Feinstein, CA
Richard Durbin, IL
Tim Johnson, SD
Mary Landrieu, LA

HOUSE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED – The House named the following members.

Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research

Republican Members

Frank D. Lucas, OK, Chair
Larry Combest, TX
Jerry Moran, KS
Tom Osborne, NE
Sam Graves, MO
Adam Putnam, FL
Max Burns, GA
Jo Bonner, AL
Mike Rogers, AL
Steve King, IA

Democratic Members

Tim Holden, PA, Ranking Member
Ed Case, HI
Frank Ballance, Jr., NC
Collin Peterson, MN
Calvin Dooley, CA
Bob Etheridge, NC
Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá, PR
Jim Marshall, GA
Mike McIntyre, NC

Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry

Republican Members

Gil Gutknecht, MN, Chair
Richard Pombo, CA
Nick Smith, MI
Doug Ose, MT
Dennis Rehberg, MT
Adam Putnam, FL
William Janklow, SD
Jo Bonner, AL
Steve King, IA
Devin Nunes, CA

Democratic Members

Calvin Dooley, CA, Ranking Member
Joe Baca, CA
Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá, PR
Dennis Cardoza, CA
Tim Holden, PA
Baron Hill, IN
Frank Ballance, Jr. NC
Mike Thompson, CA
Lincoln Davis, TN

Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management

Republican Members

Jerry Moran, KS, Chair
Larry Combest, TX
John Boehner, OH
Nick Smith, MI
Terry Everett, AL
Frank Lucas, OK
William Jenkins, TN
Charles Pickering, MS
Timothy Johnson, IL
Mike Pence, IN
Dennis Rehberg, MT
Sam Graves, MO
Max Burns, GA
Chris Chocola, IN
Marilyn Musgrave, CO

Democratic Members

Collin Peterson, MN, Ranking Member
Bennie Thompson, MS
Rodney Alexander, LA
Mike Ross, AR
Calvin Dooley, CA
Earl Pomeroy, ND
Leonard, Boswell, IA
Bob Etheridge, NC
Baron Hill, IN
Ed Case, HI
Dennis Cardoza, CA
Jim Marshall, GA
Rick Larsen, WA
Lincoln Davis, TN

Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture

Republican Members

Robin Hayes, NC, Chair
Richard Pombo, CA
Doug Ose, CA
Charles Pickering, MS
Tom Osborne, NE
Mike Pence, IN
Adam Putnam, FL
William Janklow, SD
Mike Rogers, AL
Chris Chocola, IN
Marilyn Musgrave, CO

Democratic Members

Mike Rose, AR, Ranking Members
Dennis Cardoza, CA
David Scott, GA
Collin Peterson, MN
Rodney Alexander, LA
Ken Lucas, KY
Leonard Boswell, IA
Mark Udall, CO
Rick Larsen, WA
Joe Baca, CA

Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs

Republican Members

William Jenkins, TN, Chair
Larry Combest, TX
Terry Everett, AL
Gil Gutknecht, MN
Robin Hayes, NC
Dennis Rehberg, MT

Democratic Members

Mike McIntyre, NC, Ranking Member
Bob Etheridge, NC
Baron Hill, IN
David Scott, GA
Jim Marshall, GA
Bennie Thompson, MS

Mike Rogers, AL
Devin Nunes, CA

Rodney Alexander, LA

THIS WEEK

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS HEARINGS – FY 2004 BUDGET – Undersecretary for NRE, Mark Rey and NRCS Chief Bruce Knight are scheduled to appear before the House Appropriations Committee to discuss the conservation provisions of the FY 2004 budget.

March 13

9:30 a.m.

2362 Rayburn Building

LOOKING AHEAD

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS - Rep. Dennis Rehberg, MT, has requested a briefing for his staff on NRCS' conservation programs. This meeting will be scheduled for April 10.
